



## **Executive Officer's Statement**

**November 17, 2005**

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### **VCGCB Executive Officer Elected to National Compensation Association Board**

Karen McGagin, Executive Officer, was elected to the board of the National Association of Crime Victim Compensation Boards (NACVCB) at the 2005 Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) National Training Conference. She is one of 12 members on the NACVCB Board and will serve a three-year term. Karen and Tom O'Connor, Chief Deputy Executive Officer, attended the conference, "What Works: Improving Results for Victims," in Albuquerque, New Mexico, from November 3 to November 6. This annual conference affords an opportunity for program directors from across the nation and federal VOCA administrators to meet and discuss new trends and developing issues in compensation. Workshops included presentations on compensation program challenges, staff development, strategic planning, mental health issues, and international victim services, among many other topics. There was also a special round-table for large state compensation programs: California, Florida, Illinois, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Texas and Washington. The round-table discussion allows programs from these states to share successful strategies and explore current issues.

### **Employee Development Workshop Boosts Interview Skills**

On November 2, Terri Hamilton, Manager of the Human Resources Section, and Pamela Schneider, Deputy Executive Officer for Communication, Legislation and Policy, presented a workshop on interview skills to VCGCB employees. This workshop is first in a series of brown bag lunch seminars for employee professional development. Future workshops will include topics such as succeeding in exam interviews and writing effective resumes.

Additional activities from the new Employee Wellness and Professional Development Program included a presentation by Blue Shield of California. This program focused on the impact of Domestic Violence in the workplace to coincide with Domestic Violence Awareness Month in October. In November, a lunchtime seminar featuring a breast cancer survivor from the Susan G. Komen Foundation as a speaker has been scheduled.

### **VCGCB Employees Contribute to Charitable Campaign**

In October, VCGCB employees again joined together to participate in the California State Employees Charitable Campaign. New this year was an Interagency Family Day Picnic and Coed Softball Tournament at William Land Park in Sacramento sponsored by Secretary Fred Aguiar. The event was organized to coincide with the statewide campaign. VCGCB employees attended the picnic, participated in the softball tournament, and had a great time.

Campaign activities included the kick-off event, a cake auction, and a raffle. Nearly two dozen board employees assisted with the campaign this year as coordinators, key campaigners, and in other capacities. The final results of the campaign will not be available until February 2006.

**VCGCB Updates**

**Victim Compensation Program Outreach Efforts Continue**

On November 2, Ted Boughton, Deputy Executive Officer for the Victim Compensation Program, attended the Victim Witness Coordinating Council monthly board meeting in Sacramento.

On November 9, staff from the Policy and Training Unit made a presentation on compensation benefits to counselors at in-service training at WEAVE (Women Escaping A Violent Environment) in Sacramento.

Also in November, staff from the VCGCB's Joint Powers Unit will visit Placer, Sonoma, Shasta, and Sacramento Counties.

**Revenue Recovery and Accounting Division Activities**

Revenue Recovery and Accounting Division staff members gave a number of training presentations to probation officers throughout the state. Below is a list of counties and training dates:

October 20: Inyo and Mono Counties  
October 25, 26: Los Angeles County  
November 15: Los Angeles County  
November 1: Riverside County

Laura Hill, Deputy Executive Officer for the Revenue Recovery and Accounting Division, made a presentation to Contra Costa County Criminal Court judges on October 25, and on October 26 she attended a meeting of the newly created Los Angeles County Restitution Advisory Committee.